

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER
AIR COMBAT COMMAND**

**AIR COMBAT COMMAND INSTRUCTION
11-263**



6 DECEMBER 2013

Flying Operations

**WEAPON SYSTEM GROUNDING
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This instruction implements AFRPD 11-2, *Aircrew Operations*, by establishing procedures for grounding weapon systems and resuming operations. This instruction covers assets at a wing level. Grounding of a wing's aircraft cannot be delegated lower than the wing commander. ACC/A3 (ANG: ANG/A3) must be notified of the grounding by the wing commander, and the ACC/A3 (ANG: ANG/A3) has the sole authority to resume operations. This instruction is applicable to all active duty ACC and Air National Guard (ANG) units. ANG/A3 has grounding authority over ANG assets. This instruction is not applicable to the Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC). For impoundment of an aircraft(s) and grounding of a Mission Design Series (MDS) due to implementation of Time Compliance Technical Orders (TCTOs), refer to AFI 21-101, *Aircraft and Equipment Maintenance Management*. Send comments and suggested improvements on AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*, through channels to ACC/A3TV, 205 Dodd Blvd, Suite 101, Langley AFB VA 23665-2788. This publication may be supplemented at any level, but all direct Supplements must be routed to the OPR of this publication for coordination prior to certification and approval. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS) Records Disposition Schedule (RDS).

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Corrects publication format IAW the latest release of AFI 33-360. Corrects OPR references throughout the document, due to changes in ACC office symbols. Clarifies the documents'

applicability by removing ambiguous phrasing. Corrects the Glossary of References and Supporting information.

1. Authority/Responsibilities:

1.1. Causes or Reasons for Wing-level Aircraft Grounding:

1.1.1. The wing commander has the authority to ground his aircraft for any reason.

1.2. Wing Commander Responsibilities:

1.2.1. In addition to AFI 10-206, *Operational Reporting* (Operational Event/Incident Report [OPREP-3] reporting), the following offices will be notified within 2 hours of the grounding:

1.2.1.1. Numbered Air Force (NAF) CC.

1.2.1.2. ACC/A3 (ANG: ANG/A3).

1.2.1.3. ACC/A4 (ANG: ANG/A4).

1.2.1.4. ACC/SE (if grounding was for safety of flight reasons).

1.2.1.5. MDS System Program Office (SPO) (if grounding was for a maintenance reason that has implications fleet wide).

1.2.2. Notification will include the following information:

1.2.2.1. Reason for grounding.

1.2.2.2. Immediate actions taken to ensure safety of personnel and assets.

1.2.2.3. Impact to current operations (both training and contingency related).

1.2.2.4. Expected time frame until resumption of operations.

1.3. ACC/A3 (ANG:ANG/A3) Responsibilities. After being notified of the grounding, the ACC/A3 (ANG: ANG/A3) will:

1.3.1. Determine the impact of operational capability worldwide.

1.3.2. Inform other Major Command (MAJCOM)/A3s/A4s if grounding was due to a maintenance issue that has implications to affect the weapon system fleet-wide.

1.3.3. Inform Aerospace Expeditionary Force Center (AEFC)/CC and ACC/A3O if grounding affects the capability to contribute to joint or contingency operations.

1.3.4. Coordinate with ACC/A8/A4/SE (ANG: ANG/A3/A4), and provide advice/direction to the unit as necessary.

1.3.5. Inform Commander, Air Combat Command (COMACC).

2. Procedures for Resuming Operations:

2.1. When an ACC operational commander has grounded a unit's aircraft, the ACC/A3 has sole authority to resume operations. The ANG/A3 has sole authority to resume operations for ANG aircraft.

2.1.1. Once the unit has determined they have the ability to resume operations, a request will be made to the ACC/A3 (ANG: ANG/A3). The request can be either via telephone

or message (e-mail or Defense Message Service [DMS]). The request will include the following:

- 2.1.1.1. Corrective actions taken to ensure operations can resume safely.
- 2.1.1.2. If operations will be resumed at a reduced rate, time line when operations will be back to pre-grounding levels (if operations will be resumed at a reduced rate).
- 2.1.2. ACC/A3 (ANG: ANG/A3) will grant approval for a unit to resume operations via either telephone or message (DMS or e-mail). If approval was granted via the telephone, the ACC/A3 (ANG: ANG/A3) will follow up with a message informing all agencies that were contacted during the initial grounding.

GILMARY M. HOSTAGE III,
General, USAF
Commander

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFI 10-206, *Operational Reporting*, 6 September 2011

AFPD 11-2, *Aircrew Operations*, 19 January 2012

AFI 21-101, *Aircraft and Equipment Maintenance Management*, 26 July 2010

AFI 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*, 7 February 2013

Adopted Forms

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACC—Air Combat Command

AEFC—Aerospace Expeditionary Force Center

AFI—Air Force Instruction

AFPD—Air Force Policy Directive

AFRC—Air Force Reserve Command

ANG—Air National Guard

COMACC—Commander, Air Combat Command

DMS—Defense Message Service

HQ—headquarters

MDS—Mission Design Series

NAF—Numbered Air Force

OPREP—3 —Operational Event/Incident Report

SPO—System Program Office

TCTO—Time Compliance Technical Order